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## NURSING IN MISSION STATIONS



[This department has a two-fold purpose,—to keep nurses in this country in touch with the work of missionary nurses, and to put missionary nurses in touch with each other, for an interchange of ideas, questions, and suggestions. All nurses engaged in mission work, of every creed and country, are invited to contribute to its columns.]

### FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE AND MISSIONARY BREAD MAKING \*

By MRS. WILLIAM S. LITTLE, ROCHESTER, N. Y.

DURING the winter of 1875-6 I had the great pleasure of hearing Dr. Hamlin preach in Boston, and of taking dinner with him after church at a friend's house. In the course of conversation he told us about one of the great difficulties missionaries have in heathen lands, that is, the procuring of work for converts who are obliged to give up their former ways of earning a living because their neighbors and customers, even their families, will no longer employ them.

Dr. Hamlin started several small industries, and at last decided that as bread was one of the necessities of life, the best thing he could do was to establish a bakery. Dr. Hamlin knew nothing whatever about the work, but he donned a white cap and apron and after a few failures succeeded in making a good loaf of bread. Encouraged by this success, he made a quantity of bread which found a ready sale, and then began to teach some of the natives his new trade. For some time the "missionary bakery," as it was called, paid its way, and also enabled a number of native Christians to support themselves and their families.

Soon after the Crimean War began, in 1856-7, a hospital for wounded soldiers was opened at Scutari, and it was there that Miss Florence Nightingale began her famous self-denying labors as nurse. Almost at once she complained of the quality of the bread that was furnished by the British Government for hospital use, and asked where she could buy better, saying that she would rather pay for good bread out of her own pocket than feed such wretched stuff to the poor men under her care. Her attention was called to Dr. Hamlin's bakery, and the result was that for many months the missionary bakery was patronized

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\* Prepared for a boys' missionary club in 1891, and not previously published.

by the English to such an extent that quite a large sum of money was realized for the use of the board in Turkey. Dr. Hamlin said that flour became very high, and was often of a very inferior grade, but he never took advantage of the necessities of the hospital to charge an unfair price, or to give the soldiers poor bread, as many less conscientious bakers might have done.

One day as the fresh bread, piled up in great stacks, was being taken to the hospital in a boat, a steamer, on the deck of which an American gentleman was standing, passed the boat, and the gentleman said to the captain, "What good-looking bread! Where did it come from?" When told the story of the missionary baker, Mr. Robert, for that was the man's name, said, "I must look up Dr. Hamlin; such a man is worth knowing."

The result of his looking up the doctor was that Mr. Robert became intensely interested in missionary work in Turkey and gave large amounts of money to found a college in Constantinople, to which he gave his own name, and of which the first president was Dr. Cyrus Hamlin.

#### ITEMS

*Spirit of Missions* for December reports the appointment of the following missionary nurses, as well as that of Miss Lowe, which we had before noted: for St. Matthew's Hospital, Fairbanks, Alaska, Clara C. Johnston, a New England graduate who has recently practised her profession in Roxbury, Mass.; for Sagada, Philippine Islands, Lillian M. Owen, a graduate of the Royal Victoria Hospital, Montreal; for the University Hospital, Manila, Elizabeth Gibson, graduate of the Boston City Hospital; for Mayaguez, Porto Rico, where she will do district nursing for the present, Una F. Dudley, graduate of the Monmouth Memorial Hospital, Long Branch, N. J.

The *St. Louis Globe-Democrat* of November 8 reports the appointment to the University Medical School Hospital, Canton, China, of Mabel Maehar, who at one time held a position in the New York Eye and Ear Infirmary.

The *Alaskan Churchman* for November reports the summary of work done at the Good Samaritan Hospital, Valdez, between November 1909, and November, 1910. The number of patients was 61; surgical cases, 39; births, 6; deaths, 3; number of hospital days, 709.